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NOV 21 2006

Remarks

With respect to the Examiner's comments concerning the priority claim, such a claim was properly made when the above-identified application was filed. The Official Filing Receipt for this application acknowledges the priority claim. The Preliminary Amendment which accompanied the filing of the application requested that the Cross-Reference to Related Applications section of the application be amended to note that this application is a division of the application that matured into U.S. Patent 6,622,464. It is unclear if the Preliminary Amendment was entered by the PTO. Accordingly, this Amendment again repeats the same change set forth in the Preliminary Amendment to amend this application to contain a proper Cross-Reference to Related Applications.

With respect to claim 1, the reel cutting unit has a rigid U-shaped cutting unit carrier frame 34 that mounts the reel cutting unit for pitching about a substantially horizontal, transverse pitch axis. The rigid links 42 then extend between the transverse cross member 36 of this cutting unit carrier frame and the reel mower frame to mount the cutting unit for rolling about a substantially horizontal, longitudinal roll axis. This is now clearly set forth in claim 1.

No reference of record teaches or suggests the combination of claim 1. Even if Nusser discloses inclined rigid links, there is no suggestion to use these links between a transverse cross member of the claimed cutting unit carrier frame and the reel mower frame. Even if the chains 56 in Benson were replaced with rigid links, there is no cutting unit carrier frame in either Nusser or Benson of the type recited, i.e. a rigid, U-shaped frame having a transverse cross member and downwardly extending, vertical support arms

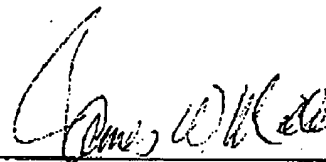
pivotally connected to the reel cutting unit frame for supporting the reel cutting unit for pitching about a substantially horizontal, transverse pitch axis. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable.

New claim 51 recites the duplicate nature of the pair of links, i.e. one link pair is on a front of the transverse cross member and a second link pair is on a rear of the transverse cross member. The duplication of the link pairs and their placement on opposite sides of a single cross member is not taught or suggested in any of the references of record.

The rejection of claim 11 is respectfully traversed. Nusser does not teach any inclined rigid links that mount a mower for rolling about a longitudinal pivot axis. Nusser's rigid links 34, 36 effect motion only about a transverse axis M, i.e. an axis offset 90° from the claimed axis. When Nusser attempts to achieve rolling about a longitudinal axis, he does so with a single simple fore-and-aft pivot like the pivot 39 shown in Fig. 3. Thus, Nusser actually teaches away from the invention and would instruct one skilled in the art to use only a simple, single pivot to achieve rolling. Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable.

For all the reasons noted above, the claims remaining in this application are allowable. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully presented,



November 21, 2006

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